

being profoundly unfair to many young people by refusing admission to their program to gay teenagers and adults. It should be emphasized that the Boy Scouts make no claim that this is based on the need to protect scouts from sexual abuse. Every organization dealing with young people ought to have very strict policies, with rigorous enforcement, to protect young people against any adult engaging in inappropriate sexual activity with them. But the Boy Scout policy is based not on this fear, but on their explicit view that being gay is inconsistent with being "morally straight" and being "clean in word and deed." In other words, the Scout's policy is simply a condemnation of the character and integrity of all gay men.

This official policy by the national organization puts a number of people of good will in a difficult situation. There are a large number of men—and women as well—who participate in and are supportive of the Boy Scouts because the organization does do a great deal of good work. But they quite correctly abhor the cruel, discriminatory policy of the Scouts. Some have responded by ending their affiliation. Others have taken an equally honorable course—staying for now within the organization but fighting explicitly and openly against its discriminatory policy. I admire the willingness of people to do this. At some point it may become clear that the Boy Scout organization is irrevocably committed to this biased policy, but there have been encouraging signs of dissent in many parts of the country and I am hoping that those courageous people who are making this fight within the Boy Scouts will at some point succeed.

I am particularly impressed when young people take this position, because it is especially hard for teenagers to stand up against authority in this way, and indeed to risk the disagreement of their peers. One very impressive scout—an Eagle Scout in fact—who has articulated the courageous moral position of those within the Boy Scout movement who disagree sharply with the organization's discriminatory policy is Michael Peiser. I first came into contact with Mr. Peiser when I was asked to write a letter to congratulate him on his becoming an Eagle Scout. As is my practice, I wrote to him and congratulated him, but simultaneously wrote to the Boy Scout organization that had solicited my letter noting that as a gay man, I did find it odd that they would simultaneously, as an organization, characterize me in such a negative fashion and ask me to congratulate one of the young people. I do not think that the young people themselves should be further victimized, so I write these letters to them of congratulations, but also remind the adult sponsoring entities of my strong disagreement with their policy.

In the case of Mr. Peiser, the Scout leaders to whom I had written shared my letter with him, and he was gracious enough to let me know of his agreement with my position. In fact, he shared with me an essay he had written for his college admissions application, which is a very powerful statement of opposition to the Boy Scout policy. I admire very much Michael Peiser's stance of fighting from within the organization to change this policy, and I ask that his essay be printed here as an example of moral leadership by a young man.

MICHAEL PEISER'S ESSAY

Two years ago, I attended my high school's first Gay/Straight Alliance meeting. As soon as the meeting began, the topic of my in-

volvement in the Boy Scouts of America, which openly discriminates gays, became the focus of the discussion. Suddenly I was being harangued by the other four people at the meeting. The hypocrisy of my being an active member of my local Boy Scout troop, while also being an ardent liberal and supporter of gay rights, had never occurred to me. The official position statement (BSA 1991) is as follows: "We believe that homosexual conduct is inconsistent with the requirement in the Scout Oath that a Scout be morally straight and in the Scout Law that a Scout be clean in word and deed, and that homosexuals do not provide a desirable role model for Scouts."

The two halves of my scouting experience, the first in a culturally diverse troop in Los Angeles and the latter in an affluent northeastern suburban troop, have been quite skewed on the issue of gay scouts. My troop and many other troops with liberal attitudes approach this controversy with a "don't ask don't tell" policy. However, I cannot hide from the fact that this evasion does not address the quandary in any manner. The Boy Scout Organization teaches its members not to hate or to discriminate; yet, having a policy that discriminates against certain individuals inevitably feeds hate.

Last year, at one of my meetings, I was teaching backpacking skills to a group of sixth graders. During the session one of the scouts started to make "gay jokes" toward another scout. The rest of the kids began to make denigrating remarks about homosexuals in scouting. I interjected and asked them why they were making fun of homosexuals and also what they knew about the Scouts' actual policy on homosexuality. The seven scouts in my group unanimously argued that "being gay was not natural and, therefore, should not be allowed in scouting." These notions, which are probably developed outside of the Boy Scouts as well as in my troop, only teach young kids to be closed-minded.

What disturbs me the most about this issue is that Scouting was formed to be a safe haven for all youth. Scouting is supposed to be a place where those who are fortunate and less fortunate can experience what their communities and world have to offer them. Scouting offers so much leadership, friendship, and guidance, that it pains me to see so many different people and organizations, ranging from synagogues to companies like Levi Strauss, completely cut off all support for the Boy Scouts. While I understand the rationale for choosing to do so, I do not feel this helps scouting in any way. I firmly believe that Scouting needs to change its anti-gay policy. Boycotting the organization only makes change more difficult.

Change can only occur from within Scouting. When people ask me how I believe this can be achieved, I tell them the following: when I see discrimination either happening or being talked about among the scouts, I sit down with them and have an open discussion. I believe that, if individual scouts learn to be open and accepting, then, with time, these discriminating policies will change. Today, when people question my support of the Boy Scouts, I tell them exactly what I disagree with, and how I plan to change it.

HONORING WILLIAM BURNS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2003

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize William "Bill" Burns,

who is being honored on the occasion of his retirement as the District Representative of the Operating Engineers in Eureka, California.

Bill Burns, who was born in Richmond, California, has dedicated his life to the labor movement in our country. He joined Operating Engineers, Local 3 in 1964 as a heavy-duty repair apprentice. After graduating from the apprenticeship program, he began his career as a mechanic and foreman, gaining experience and expertise on Northern California job sites. He was elected the conductor for Local 3 in 1982, a position he has been re-elected to in every election thereafter. Bill was named Business Representative in 1982 in Santa Rosa, California and in 1986 became District Representative in Eureka.

As a recognized community leader, Bill Burns has served on the Board of Directors of United Way; Board Member, Private Industry Council; Member, Citizens for Port Development; Secretary-Treasurer, Central Labor Council; Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Humboldt-Del Norte Building and Construction Trades Council and as a member of the Eureka City Schools Closure Committee. He also coached youth soccer for 10 years.

An active member of the Democratic Party, Bill serves as Vice-Chair and Executive Board member of the Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee. In 1992 he was a Clinton delegate to the Democratic Convention and serves as an Executive Board Member of the California Democratic Party. In 1998, Bill Burns was named Humboldt County Democrat of the Year.

Bill Burns has lived his life with a conscientious and sincere commitment to working people and our democratic traditions. Raising the standard of living for those whose daily labor sustains our nation has been his life's work.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Bill Burns for his contributions and service to the people of our country.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE DR. LAUREL CLARK, "COLUMBIA" ASTRONAUT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise today to express my sorrow over the loss the seven astronauts on board the shuttle *Columbia*. At a time when there seemed to be more than enough tragic news to go around, we woke up on a Saturday morning to news reports about a missing space shuttle, and then images of a disintegrating, burning spacecraft streaking across the sky. The memories of the *Challenger* accident were brought back for all of us, with the same sense of shared sadness.

The six American astronauts, together with their Israeli colleague, represented much of the best that our world has to offer. To the honor roll of those who died advancing human knowledge, we add Rick Husband, Michael Anderson, Kalpana Chawla, William McCool, David Brown, Laurel Clark and Ilan Ramon.

President Bush, in his moving tribute to the dead of the *Columbia*, asserted strongly, and wisely, that space exploration must not end: "The cause in which they died will continue."

Mankind is led into the darkness beyond our world by the inspiration of discovery and the longing to understand. Our journey into space will go on."

Of these seven brave men and women that we lost, I want to pay special tribute to Dr. Laurel Clark, who spent time as a child in New Mexico, where her father, Robert Salton, still resides. In reading interviews that Laurel gave, both before and during her mission on *Columbia*, a portrait emerges of an intelligent, determined woman, who managed a successful career, while at the same time being a devoted daughter, wife and mother. She helped open the door further for more women interested in science and space exploration careers.

In closing, I want to share a observation that Laurel gave from space in describing what it was like to view a sunset from above the Earth. "There's a flash—the whole payload bay turns this rosy pink. It only lasts 15 seconds and then it's gone. It's very ethereal and extremely beautiful."

I believe that Laurel's comment helps all of us have a better sense of who Laurel was. I want to express my deep sympathy to all of Laurel's family and friends. Those who knew her personally will never forget her, and her legacy will live on.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following article, which appeared in Sunday's *Albuquerque Journal*, be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

[From the *Albuquerque Journal*]

ALBUQUERQUE FATHER RECALLS "A FINE LADY"

(By Leanne Potts)

Robert Salton had gone into the back yard of his Albuquerque home at dawn Saturday to look for his oldest child in the western sky.

His daughter, Laurel Clark, was an astronaut aboard the space shuttle *Columbia*. It was her first mission, and her daddy had just heard on CNN that people in New Mexico should be able to see the shuttle's trail as it flew over the state en route to its landing in Florida.

"I saw one long contrail in the sky going from west to east," Salton said. "I'm pretty sure that was it. That was her."

Less than 20 minutes later Salton and his wife, Harriet, heard the news on television: NASA had lost contact with the shuttle.

"Then that TV reporter in Dallas had the footage that showed the breakup," Salton said. "And we knew what had happened."

The oldest of Salton's four children—the daughter who had made A's in school, gone to medical school on a full Navy scholarship and made the space program while she was five months pregnant—was dead.

"She was just a fine lady," Salton said. "I was proud of her accomplishments, of course, but she was a good person, too."

Behind him, on a table in his home in a middle-class neighborhood near University Boulevard and Indian School Road, were photos reminding the retired 69-year-old carpenter of the accomplishments of his golden child.

There was Clark and her brother, Jon Salton, an engineer at Sandia National Laboratories, grinning together in a training plane that produces weightlessness. Clark is floating upside down, wearing her blue astronaut jumpsuit; her eyes sparkle like someone who knows her dream is in reach.

There was Salton's grandson—Laurel's 8-year-old son, Iain Clark—holding a feather and a bone in some Southwestern canyon.

There was a color 8-by-10 of Laurel's official NASA photo, the one where her smile

shows her dimples, the one Americans have seen dozens of times since news broke that the space shuttle *Columbia* blew up 207,000 feet in the air over Texas.

On the photo, Laurel had written: "To a wonderful father—I wouldn't be where I am without your guidance, support and love."

The word love was underlined.

RINGING PHONES

By 1 p.m. Saturday, the Saltons had turned off their TV. They couldn't watch any more news reports about debris raining from the Texas sky.

Their phone rang nonstop. Family called. Friends called. Reporters called. Powerful people called.

"The governor called and left a message," Harriet Salton said. "We heard from that congressman from the southern part of the state, too."

The phone rang again. "It's Heather," Harriet called to her husband. Robert took the call, but was off the phone in about two minutes.

"Wrong Heather," he said. "I thought it was Heather Salton (his niece) but it was Heather Wilson. I wouldn't have picked up the phone for a congressman."

The phone rang a few minutes later; Harriet looked at the Caller ID. "It's Dan Rathner again," she said.

They let the answering machine take it.

VERY TOUGH LADY

Clark, 41, was born in Iowa. The Saltons moved a lot, and Clark lived here in Albuquerque two years in 1970s.

She went to the fifth grade at Hodgin Elementary around 1971 while Robert Salton worked on a doctorate in American Studies at the University of New Mexico. Clark's mother, Margory, was an RN.

The Saltons moved to New York but returned to Albuquerque a year or so later, where Clark attended Monroe Middle School for a year.

Her parents divorced, and Clark moved to Wisconsin with her mother. Clark went to high school in Racine, Wis., a city of 84,000 that, according to her official NASA biography, she considers to be her hometown.

She was an A-student at Horlick High. "The only B she ever made was in typing," Robert Salton said.

She got a Navy scholarship to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she got a bachelor's degree in zoology in 1983 and a doctorate in medicine in 1987.

Clark joined the Navy and was working as a flight surgeon, based in Pensacola, Fla., when she decided to try out for the space program. Clark didn't make the program the first tryout.

"Then she got pregnant, and I figured that was it for her being an astronaut," Robert Salton said.

But Clark tried out again in 1996 when she was five months pregnant with her son Iain. She got in.

"She is—she was—a very tough lady," Robert Salton said.

Clark lived in Houston with her husband, Jonathan Clark, and son, Iain. Her husband is also in the space program.

Clark's husband and son had gone to Florida to see the shuttle landing, as had Clark's sister, Lynne Salton of Kansas City, Mo. The rest of the family was watching on television, Salton said.

During the *Columbia*'s 16-day mission, Clark had been in contact with some of her siblings via e-mail.

"The kids have been forwarding me her e-mails this morning. She was real excited, talking about watching lightning storms over the Pacific."

Salton said he saw his daughter for the last time in December, when she came to Albuquerque for Christmas.

"She was pumped about the (shuttle) trip," Salton said. "She was so excited. It was something she had worked for for six or seven years."

The Saltons said Laurel was aware of the risks involved in space travel, but not worried about them. At least not enough to miss a chance to fly in the stars.

"She was doing what she loved to do," Harriet Salton said. "She fulfilled her dream. Not many of us get to do that."

HONORING ROBERT G. MONDAVI

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert G. Mondavi on the occasion of his being distinguished as an Honorary Member of the Agricultural Leadership Alumni. The award will be bestowed upon Mr. Mondavi at the annual conference of this organization.

Selection for this distinction is "reserved for special individuals who have, over a period of time, demonstrated consistent commitment and uncommon excellence in the furtherance of education and leadership in California agriculture."

Robert was born in Virginia, Minnesota to parents who emigrated from the Marche region of Italy. He is a graduate of Stanford University with a degree in economics and business administration. Upon graduation, Robert joined his father at Sunnyhill Winery in St. Helena and later at Charles Krug, where he upgraded the technology of the family enterprise, determined to raise quality. Later Mr. Mondavi established the first post-Prohibition major winery built in the Napa Valley. Robert also pioneered many of the fine winemaking techniques in California, including cold fermentation, stainless steel tanks, and the use of French oak barrels.

Mr. Mondavi received the World Trade Club's "International Achievement Award" for being a leading pioneer in the exportation of Premium California wine and being among the first to have a publicly traded company. He has also been honored with the first-ever "California State Fair Lifetime Achievement Award," the Wine Spectator's first "Readers' Choice Award" as "The Person Who Has Done the Most to Enhance Wine's Image," and the "Business Leader of the Year" award from the Harvard Business School Association of Northern California. In 2002, Robert was honored by the California State Assembly as "the global emissary of American food and wine" for lifetime achievements on behalf of California wine, food, and arts.

Mr. Mondavi is recognized as the global emissary of American food and wine. His vision was to create wines in California that belong in the company of great wines of the world. Having successfully achieved this goal, his wisdom as founder and Chairman Emeritus of Robert Mondavi now guides his sons and daughter in their leadership of the Robert Mondavi family of wines.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Robert G. Mondavi as an Honorary Member of the Agricultural Leadership Alumni. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Robert Mondavi many years of continued success.